Docket No.: 31175803-004001 (PATENT)

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page one, please replace the first paragraph with the following paragraph:

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 10/667113, filed September 18, 2003, which is a divisional of U.S. Application No. 09/545260, filed April 7, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6670257, which claims priority from European Patent Application No. 99830206.1, filed April 9, 1999, now European Patent No. 1043770, and this application claims priority from Italian Patent Application No. TO2002A000808, filed September 17, 2002, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.